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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|---|-------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 10/090,111 | 03/04/2002 | Anisur Mithu Rahman | 8360/86333 | 3380 |
| 24628 | 7590 | 09/10/2003 | | |
| WELSH & KATZ, LTD 120 S RIVERSIDE PLAZA 22ND FLOOR CHICAGO, IL 60606 | | | EXAMINER [REDACTED] | BUMGARNER, MELBA N |
| | | | ART UNIT [REDACTED] | PAPER NUMBER 3732 |
| DATE MAILED: 09/10/2003 | | | | 7 |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | |
|--|-----------------------------|------------------|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. | Applicant(s) |
| | 10/090,111 | RAHMAN ET AL. |
| | Examiner Melba Bumgarner | Art Unit 3732 |
| -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address -- | | |
| Period for Reply | | |
| A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION. | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely. - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication. - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). | | |
| Status | | |
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Responsive to communication(s) filed on _____. | | |
| 2a) <input type="checkbox"/> This action is FINAL. 2b) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> This action is non-final. | | |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under <i>Ex parte Quayle</i> , 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. | | |
| Disposition of Claims | | |
| 4) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-28</u> is/are pending in the application. | | |
| 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration. | | |
| 5) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>27</u> is/are allowed. | | |
| 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>1-3,9-11,14,15,23-26 and 28</u> is/are rejected. | | |
| 7) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) <u>4-8,12,13 and 16-22</u> is/are objected to. | | |
| 8) <input type="checkbox"/> Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement. | | |
| Application Papers | | |
| 9) <input type="checkbox"/> The specification is objected to by the Examiner. | | |
| 10) <input type="checkbox"/> The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) <input type="checkbox"/> accepted or b) <input type="checkbox"/> objected to by the Examiner. | | |
| Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a). | | |
| 11) <input type="checkbox"/> The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) <input type="checkbox"/> approved b) <input type="checkbox"/> disapproved by the Examiner. | | |
| If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action. | | |
| 12) <input type="checkbox"/> The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. | | |
| Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120 | | |
| 13) <input type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f). | | |
| a) <input type="checkbox"/> All b) <input type="checkbox"/> Some * c) <input type="checkbox"/> None of: | | |
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received. | | |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____. | | |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)). | | |
| * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received. | | |
| 14) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application). | | |
| a) <input type="checkbox"/> The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received. | | |
| 15) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121. | | |
| Attachment(s) | | |
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | | |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | | |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) <u>4,5,5,6</u> . | | |
| 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____. | | |
| 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) | | |
| 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____. | | |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 23-26 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Recitation of "the grippable member" in claim 23 and "the locating member" in claim 28 lack sufficient antecedent basis.

Claim Objections

3. Claim 1 is objected to because of the following informalities: "radially" should read –radially–. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Feine. Feine discloses an ultrasonic dental instrument grippable by an operator comprising a handpiece H and an ultrasonic insert 1 with a treatment applying tip 18, wherein the insert is carried by the handpiece, wherein the tip is rotatable relative

to the handpiece by a force applied only to a portion of the insert, wherein the insert includes a torque lock with a plurality of radially movable prongs 40 (column 4 line 47).

As to claim 2, the insert is releasably coupled for axial insertion into and removal from the handpiece. As to claim 3, the insert carries an elastomeric member 20. Patentable weight is not given to the intended use of the member. As to claims 9 and 14, the tip is rotatable through an arc on the order of at least two hundred seventy degrees (column 4 line 1). As to claim 11, the insert carries a user gripping member 10. Patentable weight is not given to the intended use of the gripping member.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feine.

Feine discloses an instrument that shows the limitations as described above; however, Feine does not show the elastomeric member comprising silicone. It would have been obvious an obvious matter of choice to one of ordinary skill in the art as to the specific material of a known member. Furthermore, the specification is silent as to the specific elastomeric material.

8. Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Feine in view of Falone et al. Feine discloses an instrument that shows the limitations as described above and a handle H ; however, Feine does not show the handle comprising

silicone. Falone et al. teach various tools comprising elastomeric handle 16 of silicone (column 2 line 18). Feine and Falone et al. are analogous art because they are from the similar problem solving area of a handle on the instrument. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the handle of Feine to be made of silicone to have a handle with vibration absorbing material in view of Falone et al.

Allowable Subject Matter

9. Claim 27 is allowed.
10. Claims 4-8, 12, 13, and 16-22 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.
11. Claims 23-26 and 28 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Information Disclosure Statement

12. On the submitted Information Disclosure Statements, the search report has been crossed through because it merely points to other prior art.

Conclusion

13. Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be directed to Melba Bumgarner whose telephone number is 703-305-0740. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin Shaver can be reached on (703) 308-2582. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-308-2708.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0858.



Melba Bumgarner



KEVIN SHAVER 9/4/03
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700